in France’s
Languedoc
Toulouse • Carcassonne • Albi
September 8 to 16, 2018

SAVINGS
EARLY BOOKING
SAVE $600 USD PER COUPLE!
Dear Alumni and Friends,

Bask in the South of France’s natural splendour during les beaux jours de l’automne (the beautiful days of autumn) on this exclusively designed, nine-day sojourn amid the unspoiled landscapes, traditional French villages and lofty Cathar fortresses of the rich historical provinces of Languedoc-Roussillon and Midi-Pyrénées—a well-kept secret of allure and intrigue—recently redesignated the Occitania region. Immerse yourself in the authentic way of life and vivid local culture and delve into the complex history, traditions and legends of its many past inhabitants, from the ancient Greeks and Romans to the Occitans and the Cathars.

During this comprehensive itinerary, one of the widely acclaimed Town & Country Life® series, experience a unique combination of both town and country, from the UNESCO World Heritage-designated medieval Cité de Carcassonne with its two concentric stone walls and 53 towers to the impossibly picturesque hilltop village of Cordes-sur-Ciel, built in the 13th century by the Count of Toulouse, and the rarely ventured département of Aude’s ample vineyards, where medieval monks first produced crisp Blanquette, a sparkling wine that predates Champagne. Enjoy two specially arranged wine tastings and a private cruise on the breathtaking Canal du Midi, a UNESCO World Heritage site and historic link between the Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Ocean. Marvel at the natural wonders of the Corbières region and the Pyrénées Mountains and walk the storybook cobblestone lanes amidst the Southern Gothic-style architecture and distinctive red-brick buildings of the UNESCO-designated episcopal city of Albi. Interact with local residents who will share insights into their daily lives in the Occitania region during the exclusive Town & Country Life® Forum.

Enjoy accommodations in the comfortable Hotel Mercure Albi Bastides, ideally located overlooking the River Tarn with terrace views of the medieval heart of Albi, and in the charming Château de Floure, an authentic 16th-century French country estate. Golden Age of Toulouse Pre-Program and Medieval Cathar Mystique Post-Program Options are available to enhance your exploration of France’s best-kept secret.

This one-of-a-kind small group travel program invites you to explore le cœur (the heart) of France’s most fascinating yet undiscovered region at the best time of year, and it is an excellent value. Make your reservations today!

Sincerely,

Kristopher Brown
Director of Alumni Relations and Executive Director of the Alumni Association
University of Saskatchewan
Experience captivating, seldom-visited Languedoc—the western half of Mediterranean France that extends from the Alps to the Pyrénées—where la vie unfolds amid medieval villages, lively outdoor markets and hectares of lush vineyards that produce some of France's best wine.

This carefully planned itinerary balances time on your own to partake in local life with guided historical and cultural excursions, immersing you in the daily rhythms and generations-old customs in these quaint towns and villages.

Parler (talk) with local residents as they go about their day and during our Town & Country Life® Forum.

Experience delectable regional specialties during two private wine tastings and specially arranged meals, including the C'est Bon! CULINARY TRADITIONS™ excursion in Castelnaudary, birthplace of cassoulet.

Admire iconic works by Goya and Toulouse-Lautrec in Occitania's most comprehensive museums and explore the rich architectural histories along the cobbled rues of beautiful, provincial villages. Enjoy charming accommodations in an authentic French château and in a historic former water mill overlooking the River Tarn. This exclusive program at an excellent value is part of the popular Town & Country Life® series, providing intimate, incomparable travel experiences, custom built with your joie de vivre in mind.

**Itinerary**

Day

1 Depart Canada

*Pre-Program Toulouse Option* or

2 Toulouse, France/Albi

- Check into the Hotel Mercure Albi Bastides.

3 Albi

- Walking tour of medieval Albi with visits to the Cathédrale Sainte-Cécile and Collégiale Saint-Salvi.

**Cultural Enrichments:**
- Tour of Palais de la Berbie's acclaimed Musée Toulouse-Lautrec.
- Lunch in a local restaurant.

4 Albi/Gaillac/Noailles/Cordes-sur-Ciel

- Full-day excursion to Gaillac and Cordes-sur-Ciel with a visit to the Abbaye Saint-Michel de Gaillac.

**Cultural Enrichments:**
- Wine tasting and tour at a family-owned estate in the village of Noailles.
- **TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE® Forum** in Albi.

5 Albi/Castres/Castelnaudary/

**Château de Floure**

- Afternoon check-in to the Château de Floure.

**Cultural Enrichments:**
- Visit to the Goya Museum in Castres.
- C'est Bon! CULINARY TRADITIONS™ cooking demonstration and traditional cassoulet lunch in Castelnaudary.

6 Château de Floure/

**Carcassonne®/Canal du Midi®**

- Walking tour of Carcassonne with visits to the Basilica of Saints Nazarius and Celsus and the Château Comtal.

**Cultural Enrichments:**
- Time at leisure to explore Carcassonne.
- Canal du Midi cruise in a flat-bottomed boat.

7 Château de Floure/Corbières Wine Region/

**Abbaye de Fontfroide**

- Guided tour of Narbonne.
- Visit to the 12th-century Cistercian Abbaye de Fontfroide.

**Cultural Enrichment:**
- Corbières wine tasting and cellar tour.

8 Château de Floure/

**Caunes-Minervois/Minerve**

- Walking tour of the medieval hilltop villages of Caunes-Minervois and Minerve, with guided visits to the Abbaye de Caunes-Minervois and the Église Saint-Étienne.

**Cultural Enrichment:**
- Time at leisure in Minerve.

9 Floure/Toulouse

*Post-Program Cathar Country Option* or

- Return to Canada

*Available at additional cost.

The scenic skyline of medieval Albi, known as ‘la rouge’ for its signature red-brick architecture, is dominated by the historic monuments of Cathedral Sainte-Cécile and the iconic Pont Vieux spanning the River Tarn.
Albi
Known as “la rouge” by locals for the town’s signature red-brick architecture, the UNESCO World Heritage-designated old city of Albi became a powerful episcopal centre and market town following a crusade against the Cathars in the 13th century. Today, beautiful Renaissance maisons (houses) and iconic crimson brick buildings line the cobblestone streets, built with the wealth of 15th- and 16th-century textile and dye industries. Stroll across the River Tarn along the 10th-century Pont Vieux (Old Bridge) for a spectacular view of the city, and visit the 13th-century Cathédrale Sainte-Cécile, a masterpiece of French Southern Gothic-style architecture with elaborate ceiling frescoes—the largest and oldest Italian Renaissance paintings in France. Visit the Collégiale Saint-Salvi, which impeccably merges 10th-century Roman and 13th-century Gothic architectural styles.

Cultural Enrichments: Tour the acclaimed Musée Toulouse-Lautrec, housed in the imposing Palais de la Berbie, which exhibits the world’s largest collection of works by Henri Toulouse-Lautrec, the famed Art Nouveau artist born here in 1864. Savour lunch with regional wine in a restaurant. Enjoy time to explore Albi at your own pace. Experience a special TOWN & COUNTRY LIFE® Forum with local residents, who will discuss daily life in the South of France.

Gaillac
The quaint town of Gaillac is located in one of France’s oldest wine-growing regions, where narrow rues brim with bâtisse à colombages (half-timbered buildings) and open up to charming village squares. The vineyards of Gaillac produce grapes to make red wines like Syrah, Cabernet and Merlot and white wines such as Mauzac and Sauvignon. Visit the historic, French Southern Gothic-style Abbaye Saint-Michel de Gaillac, founded on the banks of the Tarn in A.D. 972 by Benedictine monks and consecrated by the Bishop of Albi.

Cultural Enrichment: In nearby Noailles, enjoy a private tasting of local wines at a family-owned vineyard.

Cordes-sur-Ciel
The 13th-century hilltop village of Cordes-sur-Ciel appears to float above the sky, or sur ciel, among low-lying clouds that hang in the surrounding Cérou Valley.
It is said to be the first ville bastide (fortified city) ever built, intended to protect its inhabitants from the siege of the Cathars. It is one of the most picturesque villages in all of France, with attractive Gothic-style architecture and sculpted, decorative façades of merchants’ houses, evidence of the wealth from the 14th-century leather and cloth trades.

**Castres**
The small, scenic village of Castres was built around a ninth-century Benedictine monastery on the Agout River, and has been a great centre of the wool industry since the 14th century—its farmers and weavers used wool from their own sheep to make yarns, cloth and fabrics. Today, it is France’s most important producer of carded wool.

**Cultural Enrichment:** Tour the largest collection of Spanish artwork in France in the fascinating Goya Museum, located in the original Archbishop’s Palace and designed by one of the architects of Versailles.

**Castelnaudary**
The charming market town of Castelnaudary—the main port of the famous Canal du Midi—is located on the Roman route from Toulouse to the Mediterranean and is the birthplace of one of France’s most beloved regional specialties, le cassoulet.

**C’EST BON! CULINARY TRADITIONS™**

**Cultural Enrichment:** By special arrangement, lunch in a local restaurant includes an exclusive cooking demonstration illuminating the history of the region’s famous le cassoulet.

**Carcassonne/Canal du Midi**
This former frontier between France and Spain has been occupied since the sixth century B.C. and is the largest walled city in Europe. Carcassonne was fortified by the Romans, conquered by Visigoths, captured by Persians, invaded by Franks and overrun by Barbarians, each leaving an indelible influence on the city’s architectural and artistic heritage. The medieval core of Carcassonne, La Cité, is a UNESCO World Heritage site characterized by cobblestone streets and fairy-tale turrets. Visit the Romanesque-Gothic-style Basilica of Saints Nazarius and Celsus, and the medieval Château Comtal, a former Cathar castle.

**Cultural Enrichments:** Enjoy time on your own in storybook Carcassonne before the specially arranged cruise aboard a traditional flat-bottomed boat in the shade of picturesque plane trees, which canopy the grand, 17th-century Canal du Midi, a UNESCO World Heritage site that features unique oval locks and stone bridges.

**Floure**
In the heart of Cathar Country lies Floure—a pastoral village surrounded by lush vineyards and comprised of ivy-covered stone cottages with time-worn wooden shutters and colourful blooms in window boxes.
Abbaye de Fontfroide/Corbières Wine Region
Travel into the scenic, rugged Corbières Mountains to the characteristically Southern French Narbonne to tour the city’s historic centre, quartier de Cité, and the incredibly well-preserved Cistercian Abbaye de Fontfroide, founded in 1093. Walk through the abbey’s Gothic arched chapter hall and cloisters, and stroll its rose-filled gardens with more than 3000 fragrant bushes.

Cultural Enrichment: Enjoy a private tour of a renowned family-owned château and wine cellar and enjoy a tasting of four regional wines—an indelible program highlight.

Caunes-Minervois/Minerve
The renowned Minervois wine region—whose appellation produces rich red wines from the Carignan, Grenache and Syrah grapes, and white wines including Viognier, Clairette Blanche and Muscat—was named for the Roman goddess Minerve and is comprised of sweeping scenery, fortified medieval villages and rolling vineyards. In Caunes-Minervois, see the Châteaux de Lastours and visit the Benedictine abbaye, featuring a mélange of architectural periods, from an eighth-century foundation to early southern-Romanesque art to 18th-century stained glass.

Inhabited since prehistoric times and fortified in the Middle Ages, the village of Minerve overlooks the French countryside from atop a lofty gorge. Visit the Église Saint-Étienne, the village’s austere Romanesque church consecrated by the Bishop of Narbonne in A.D. 456, and its museum devoted to the region’s prehistoric archaeology.

Cultural Enrichment: Enjoy time on your own to explore the enchanting, medieval hillock of Minerve.

Hotel Mercure Albi Bastides
Located on the banks of the River Tarn, the charming, historically registered Hotel Mercure Albi Bastides is housed in a former 18th-century water mill within walking distance of Albi’s red-brick Cathedral and iconic Pont Vieux (Old Bridge), the perfect home base for your exploration of the surrounding medieval towns and vineyards.

Each of the 56 guest rooms features a private bathroom, individual climate control, satellite television and complimentary Wi-Fi. The inviting hotel restaurant serves fine regional cuisine complete with a panoramic view across the old city.

Château de Floure
Once the site of a Romanesque monastery and, during the reign of King Henry IV, the country estate of the Toulouse Parliament’s president, the Château de Floure is tucked into the French countryside near Carcassonne, and offers 25 individually appointed guest rooms overlooking formal French gardens.

Accommodations feature a private bathroom and individual climate control. Guests may enjoy complimentary Wi-Fi in le salon and the full spa with hot tub, Turkish-style bath, sauna, heated pool and fitness area. Breakfast is served in the lounge, and fine local cuisine is served in the hotel restaurant.

Considered one of the most beautiful villages in France, the hilltop village of Minerve is the historic capital of the Minervois region.
Included Features

In Albi
◆ Three nights in the comfortable HOTEL MERCURE ALBI BASTIDES, ideally located overlooking the River Tarn and with views of the medieval old city of Albi.
◆ Private Welcome Reception in the hotel.
◆ Breakfast each day and one dinner with wine in the hotel.

In the Château de Floure
◆ Four nights in this charming and authentic château in the countryside near historic Carcassonne.
◆ Breakfast each day and two dinners with wine.
◆ Private Farewell Reception.

Expert-Guided Excursions and Exclusive Cultural Enrichments
◆ Two tastings of local wines—at a family-owned estate in the village of Noailles near Cordes-sur-Ciel and at a winery amid the beautifully rugged Corbières Mountains.
◆ Three lunches featuring regional cuisine and wine, including a CULINARY TRADITIONS™ demonstration of traditional cassoulet.
◆ Tour of the acclaimed Musée Toulouse-Lautrec in the 13th-century Palais de la Berbie, exhibiting the world’s largest collection of the artist’s work.
◆ Full-day excursion to the historic town of Gaillac to visit the imposing Abbaye Saint-Michel de Gaillac and the well-preserved, picturesque village of Cordes-sur-Ciel.
◆ Tour of the comprehensive Goya Museum in Castres, housing the largest collection of Spanish artwork in France.
◆ Visit to the extensively restored Romanesque former Cistercian Abbaye de Fontfroide, including its church, cloister, chapter hall and rose garden.
◆ Walking tour to the well-preserved medieval town of Caunes-Minervois and to Minerve, one of the most beautiful villages of France.
◆ Time at leisure to experience the rhythms of daily life in Carcassonne and Minerve.
◆ French language introduction.

UNESCO World Heritage Site Highlights
◆ Walking tour of provincial Albi, once a stronghold of the Cathars, including a visit to the impressive, 14th-century Cathédrale Sainte-Cécile and Collégiale Saint-Salvi.
◆ Guided tour of Carcassonne, including visits to the Romanesque-Gothic style Basilica of Saints Nazarius and Celus, and the impressive archaeological museum in the restored Château Comtal, a former Cathar castle.
◆ Cruise aboard a traditional flat-bottomed boat on the Canal du Midi.

Always Included
◆ Transfers and luggage handling abroad if your arrival(s)/departure(s) coincide with the scheduled group transfer(s).
◆ Experienced, local guides for included excursions.
◆ Gratuities to local guides and drivers on included excursions.
◆ Complimentary bottled water on excursions.
◆ Hospitality desk in the hotel and château.
◆ Experienced Gohagan & Company Program Director at your service.
◆ Complimentary use of an audio headset during guided excursions.
◆ Automatic $250,000 USD flight insurance policy for each participant ticketed on flights by Gohagan & Company.
Golden Age of Toulouse
Pre-Program Option
A medieval university town, and in the 13th century, Europe’s second largest city, Toulouse lies along the sun-kissed banks of the Garonne River in the idyllic South of France. Explore the extraordinary Les Jacobins, the first Dominican monastery in the world, established in 1230. Enjoy a walking tour through Toulouse’s centuries-old cobblestone streets and discover the city’s most impressive 11th- to 14th-century Romanesque and Gothic churches and its opulent 16th-century mansions. Visit the Musée des Augustins, housed in the former monastery, and admire fine medieval stone sculpture. Accommodations for two nights are in the ideally located Grand Hotel de L’Opera in Toulouse.

Medieval Cathar Mystique
Post-Program Option
Deep in the heart of Pays Cathare stand the awe-inspiring castles and fortified towns—rich with beguiling mystery and religious intrigue—built on the foothills of the Pyrénées by this Christian denomination that flourished during the 12th and 13th centuries. Envision Languedoc’s enchanted history during guided excursions—visit well-preserved Château de Quéribus, site of the Cathars’ last stand; the 10th-century bastide town of Mirepoix; the enigmatic hilltop village of Rennes-le-Château, with its centuries-old legends of the Holy Grail and the Knights Templar; and mystifying Alet-les-Bains, built on a natural hot spring. Explore the unusual rock-hewn troglodyte Church of Sainte-Marie in Vals and the medieval Château de Foix. Enjoy a specially arranged tasting of the region’s famous Blanquette de Limoux—the world’s first sparkling wine—at a historic, family-owned estate. Spend three nights in the charming Château Des Ducs De Joyeuse, an authentic 16th-century castle turned hotel in the village of Couiza.

Protected behind impregnable walls, the strategic Château de Foix has surveyed the town since the 10th century.

Constructed on a fourth-century abbey, Saint-Sernin Basilica in Toulouse is Europe’s largest remaining Romanesque structure.
The small villages and verdant, rolling vineyards that dot the landscape of the historic Languedoc region have produced some of the most celebrated wines in France and the world for over 2600 years.

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Program reservations require a deposit of $600 USD per person and $200 USD per person Golden Age of Toulouse Pre-Program Option and/or $200 USD per person Medieval Cathar Mystique Post-Program Option. By reserving and depositing on this program, I/we agree to the Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Binding Arbitration Agreement as printed on the outside back cover of this brochure.

- Enclosed is my/our cheque(s) for $ as deposit.
- Make cheques payable to Thomas P. Gohagan & Company.
- I/We authorize you to charge my/our deposit of $ to:
  - Visa
  - MasterCard

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Please make my/our reservation(s):
- Double occupancy (two twin beds).
- Double occupancy (one double bed).
- Single accommodations.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Please make my/our reservation(s):
- Golden Age of Toulouse Pre-Program Option
  - Double at $740 USD per person.
  - Single at $1040 USD per person.
  - I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

Medieval Cathar Mystique Post-Program Option
- Double at $1625 USD per person.
- Single at $1925 USD per person.
- I am reserving as a single but prefer to share accommodations and will allow you to select my roommate (shares cannot be guaranteed).

- I/We want you to book my/our air, at additional cost to be advised,‡ from

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- Economy Class
- Upgraded Economy
- Business Class
- First Class

‡Note: Airfare is subject to change and availability and is nonrefundable.

- I/We will make my/our own air arrangements.

All FINAL PAYMENTS are required to be made by cheque, wire transfer or credit card by June 5, 2018.

Please contact Gohagan Travel at 1-800-922-3088 with questions regarding this tour. If you have questions regarding the U of S Alumni Travel Program or you no longer wish to receive U of S Alumni Travel information, please contact Alumni Relations at 800-699-1907 or local 306-966-5186.
NOT INCLUDED: Taxes, passport, visas and associated fees; personal expenses such as laundry, telephone calls and Internet access; accident/sickness, trip cancellation, and baggage insurance; gratuities to hotel personnel; optional meals or beverages (except as specifically included in your package); local departure/arrival air/taxi fees; airfare and associated local taxes; airport facility and security taxes and federal inspection fees not listed in the “Included Features” section of the brochure; transfers and baggage handling to/from airports or hotels; all costs of arrival and/or departure if you are arriving earlier or later than and/or departing earlier or later than the scheduled group transfer(s); any overnight on land due to flight schedule( )s, meals, alcoholic beverages, or any other beverages not specifically mentioned in the “Included Features” section.

AIRFARE: Airfare is subject to change and availability and, depending on the fare basis, likely is nonrefundable. Your airline ticket constitutes a contract between you and the airline, even if purchased through Gohagan.

LUGGAGE: Baggage allowance policies are set by the airlines and may change without notice.

PHYSICAL ACCESSIBILITY: All programs require physical independence and are not modified to accommodate participants with disabilities. Please contact your travel agent or Gohagan to determine if this program is appropriate for you.

TRIP INSURANCE: We strongly recommend that you purchase trip cancellation insurance. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement. Trip cancellation insurance is available through Gohagan. Failure to purchase insurance for any reason will not result in any refund of such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon receipt of your reservation.

REVISIONS: Prices quoted are based on bundled fares for the round-trip air travel to and from the program on the dates listed in the brochure. Gohagan reserves the right to change the itinerary or trip features at any time and for any reason, with or without notice, and Gohagan shall not be liable for any loss of any kind as a result of any such changes. Ship schedules, port calls, hotel accommodations, tour guides, fares, tour leaders, and other aspects of the program are subject to change at any time. Changes in supplier costs, currency fluctuations or fuel or energy surcharges and all such expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident, and damaged or lost luggage. We will send you an application upon receipt of your reservation.

ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT: By forwarding of deposit, the participant certifies that he/she does not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that would preclude the participant from safely and comfortably participating in the activities, or who is abusive or who Gohagan determines is reserved to decline to accept as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, any person who in the sole discretion of the trip leader and/or Gohagan is reserved to refuse to accept as a trip participant, or remove from a trip, any person who is abusive, threatening, or physically or emotionally intimidating, and/or whose presence will unreasonably and significantly interfere with the enjoyment of other participants. Gohagan reserves the right to refuse boarding of passengers on any travel program for any reason other than those specifically mentioned in the “Included Features” section of the brochure. These decisions are made without regard to whether the passenger is a senior or a child. Gohagan reserves the right to refuse boarding on any travel program for any reason other than those specifically mentioned in the “Included Features” section.